

# Texas' Big Bend: Birding & Wildlife | Species List

## May 2 – 9, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by: Peter Burke

**Summary:** Our group identified 150 species of birds, 11 mammals and 13+ reptiles and amphibians. Notes on sightings are listed below and you may also access the eBird Trip Report: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/124353>

### Family or Species Common Name Scientific Name

#### DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: ANATIDAE

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors* — Found on our first day at both Sandia Wetlands and on Balmorhea Lake.

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata* — A few found at Balmorhea Lake.

**Mallard** *Anas strepera* — Although we tried to make this pair into Mexican Ducks, the bright plumage and smudgy bills ruled made these the less common female Mallards.

#### NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae

**Scaled Quail** *Callipepla squamata* — Found on several occasions including on our first day at both Sandia Wetlands and on Balmorhea Lake, and later on the Post Road in Marathon and a single male at the Christmas Mountains Oasis.

**Gambel's Quail** *Callipepla gambelii* — Many at the Rio Bosque Park outside El Paso.

#### PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

**Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo* — A good sighting at Balmorhea Lake and our only one for the trip!

#### GREBES: Podicipedidae

**Western Grebe** *Aechmophorus occidentalis* — Careful scanning at Balmorhea Lake identified one Western, with the eye surrounded by black.

**Clark's Grebe** *Aechmophorus clarkii* — Several dozen were seen quite well at Balmorhea Lake.

#### PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

**Rock Pigeon (I)** *Columba livia* — We listed these on our first day and then again in the Davis Mountains, but for some reason none appeared on any eBird list, so I went back and added them in.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove (I)** *Streptopelia decaocto* — Common, seen on most days.

**Common Ground Dove** *Columbina passerina* — A great find by Michael but I'm not sure if anyone in the group was able to see this small dove at the Rio Grande Village.

**White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* — Common, seen on most days.

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* — Common, seen on most days.

#### CUCKOOS: Cuculidae

**Greater Roadrunner** *Geococcyx californianus* — We had our first roadrunner at Rio Bosque Park and would go on to see quite a few of these gregarious birds including a very inquisitive male that responded to some playback in the Cottonwood Campground, putting on quite a show for us.

#### NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae

**Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis* — Karen pointed one out at Rio Bosque Park, an uncommon daytime sighting.

However, we would go on to see several more on four days of the trip.

#### **SWIFTS: Apodidae**

**White-throated Swift** *Aeronautes saxatalis* — Peter pointed out a few soaring above and along the cliffs in the Chisos Mountains as we descended along the Pinnacles Trail.

#### **HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae**

**Lucifer Hummingbird** *Calothorax lucifer* — A stunning male was our first bird at the Christmas Mtn. Oasis.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** *Archilochus alexandri* — The most common hummingbird, readily IDed by its long, slightly curved bill, seen at multiple locations on four days.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** *Selasphorus platycercus* — Heard, and seen by some, on the hike to see Colima Warbler. Just as we reached the overlook, a territorial male was diving, its notched wing feathers making a high-pitched trill.

#### **RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae**

**American Coot** *Fulica americana* — First seen on Balmorhea Lake and then again on the small pond at The Post.

#### **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae**

**Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* — Seen on our first day of birding from several locations including at Rio Bosque, Sandia Wetlands and at Balmorhea Lake.

**American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana* — Found only at Sandia Wetlands.

#### **LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS: Charadriidae**

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* — Seen on our first day of birding from several locations including at Rio Bosque, Sandia Wetlands and at Balmorhea Lake.

#### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae**

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* — A nice find at the Sandia Wetlands, busy doing their typical “sewing machine” probing in the second pond.

**Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* — Also found at Sandia Wetlands, allowing for close study of this small, delicate shorebird.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* — Found on two days, first at Balmorhea Lake, and then at The Post.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* — Seen and then heard as it flew around in the shallows at Balmorhea Lake.

#### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae**

**Franklin's Gull** *Leucophaeus pipixcan* — A nice find at Balmorhea Lake.

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* — Also seen at Balmorhea Lake.

#### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae**

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* — A few seen in flight and diving at Balmorhea Lake.

#### **PELICANS: Pelecanidae**

**American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* — Fun to get such good looks at these stunning, large birds. We also were able to see the group feeding behavior as they swam in a tight formation to drive fish towards the shallow water where it was easier for them to scoop them up.

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae**

**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* — One found on a spit of sand in Balmorhea Lake.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* — Also found at Balmorhea Lake.

**Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* — A nice find at Sandia Wetlands!

### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae**

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* — Just one seen circling with other vultures at the Rio Grande Village, all black with a short, triangular tail and the distinctive white outer primaries.

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* — Common, seen on most days.

### **OSPREY: Pandionidae**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* — One found at Balmorhea Lake.

### **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae**

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos* — Our final bird of the tour! A stunning adult perched on a telephone pole along the road to Valencia. Either Peter parked too close or a cranky Swainson's Hawk flushed it to another perch, giving us the opportunity to appreciate its tremendous wingspan and strong flight.

**Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii* — A nice find at The Post and our only accipiter of the trip.

**Common Black Hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus* — The bird on a nest at Rio Grande Village was barely visible, but later we were able to watch one in flight, with its broad wings and the wide, white tail band.

**Gray Hawk** *Buteo plagiatus* — One of the highlights of the trip was seeing one in flight at the Rio Grande Village and then watching a pair at the Cottonwood Campground soaring a calling around a nest!

**Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni* — We saw several on our first day at Rio Bosque Park and others on three other days.

**Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus* — A great find at The Post, but it quickly flew out of sight and I'm not sure how many people were able to get a look at this desert specialist.

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* — Common, seen on most days.

### **OWLS: Strigidae**

**Elf Owl** *Micrathene whitneyi* — For those who stood vigil for 45 minutes, staring silently at a small hole in a telephone pole at the Davis SP Interpretive Center, the sight of that tiny little owl coming in for five seconds was perhaps a bit underwhelming! Fortunately, the female soon came to the nest cavity and give everyone the chance to study her in more detail.

**Burrowing Owl** *Athene cunicularia* — Michael found this bird while scouting on May 1, which is why we made the visit to Rio Bosque Park. Thanks Michael!

### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae**

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megasceryle alcyon* — One was found at Balmorhea Lake.

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

**Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus* — Seen on four days of the trip. These gregarious, clown-faced woodpeckers work tirelessly stashing acorns.

**Golden-fronted Woodpecker** *Melanerpes aurifrons* — Also seen on four days, but particularly well seen at The Post, where several pairs were quite vocal.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker** *Dryobates scalaris* — Our best looks were at a pair actively feeding young at Carolyn's Oasis beside the feeders.

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus* — Surprisingly, seen just once in the Davis Mountains at the Lawrence E. Wood picnic area.

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae**

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* — Seen at Rio Bosque Park and then again in the Davis Mountains at the Lawrence E. Wood picnic area.

### **PARROTS**

**Monk Parakeet** *Myiopsitta monachus* – Who can forget the large, noisy flock that circled us at Rio Bosque Park, eventually perching in the cottonwoods affording us the chance to view them through the scope.

#### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae**

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi* — Observed sallying from prominent perches at a distance in the Davis Mountains SP.

**Western Wood-Pewee** *Contopus sordidulus* — Seen and heard at multiple locations on six days of the tour.

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans* — First seen in the Rio Grande Village and then again in Boquillas Canyon and the Christmas Mountains Oasis.

**Say's Phoebe** *Sayornis saya* — Seen on five days of the tour.

**Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus* — Even though it was a common bird on this trip, it was still a highlight for many!

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens* — Common, seen on most days.

**Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* — A great find at the Cottonwood Campground, initially IDed by voice and eventually it perched long enough for everyone to get good looks through the scope.

**Cassin's Kingbird** *Tyrannus vociferans* — In the higher elevations of the Davis Mountains, this replaced Western Kingbird and gave us the chance to study the field marks. We had one more chance to appreciate it with a bright individual that perched by the feeders at the Christmas Mountain Oasis.

**Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis* — Extremely common at all lower-elevations locations.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus* — Another great find by Michael who noticed what turned out to be a mated pair tending to an active nest on the road to Big Bend.

#### **VIREOS: Vireonidae**

**Bell's Vireo** *Vireo bellii* — Far easier to hear than to get eyes on, we nevertheless were able to see several, particularly at Dugout Wells, Sam Nail Ranch and in the Christmas Mountains.

**Hutton's Vireo** *Vireo huttoni* — A singing male on the Meadows Trail in Big Bend.

**Plumbeous Vireo** *Vireo plumbeus* — Seen twice on the tour, first in the Davis Mountains when we were paying more attention to the Grace's Warbler, and then again on the Meadows Trail in Big Bend.

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* — A great find by Mike up at the Christmas Mountains Oasis!

#### **SHRIKES: Laniidae**

**Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus* — Just one, seen on the Post Road.

#### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae**

**Pinyon Jay** *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus* — We set out in search of a flock that had been coming into feeders in a small development near Davis Mountain SP, but we didn't find them. On our way back to the Hotel Limpia, Michael reported that his car had been fortunate to spot one perched as we left the development.

**Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay** *Aphelocoma woodhouseii* — We found quite a few of these boisterous and social jays in the Davis Mountains.

**Mexican Jay** *Aphelocoma wollweberi* — At lower elevations, the scrub-jays were replaced by Mexican Jays, which were particularly active at Big Bend and all around the lodge and living areas there.

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* — Very difficult to distinguish from Chihuahuan Raven except by voice or, in some cases, by location.

#### **CHICKADEES AND TITS: Paridae**

**Black-crested Titmouse** *Baeolophus atricristatus* — We had our first looks at this handsome titmouse at Davis Mtns. SP, but also found them at the Chisos Mtns. Lodge and on the Meadows Trail.

#### **PENDULINE TITS: Remizidae**

**Verdin** *Auriparus flaviceps* — One very noisy bird was found on our first day at Rio Bosque Park. After we arrived at Big Bend NP, we found others at Dugout Wells and at Rio Grande Village.

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae**

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* — Seen in Santa Elena Canyon, the only brown and white swallow we saw.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* — Common, seen on most days.

**Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* — Seen on four days of the tour, easily IDed by the bright “headlamp” and pale rump patch.

**Cave Swallow** *Petrochelidon fulva* — Peter pointed out a small colony at the first boarder checkpoint.

#### **BUSHTITS: Aegithalidae**

**Bushtit** *Psaltriparus minimus* — A few were seen at the Lawrence E. Wood picnic area in the Davis Mountains, then also at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Station and finally along the Meadow Trail.

#### **KINGLETS: Regulidae**

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula* — A great find by John and Kevin at the Christmas Mountain Oasis!

#### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae**

**White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis* — The only nuthatch for the tour, found at higher elevations near ponderosa pines, like in the Davis Mountains and in the Chisos Mountains.

#### **GNATCATCHERS: Polioptilidae**

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea* — These were particularly conspicuous when we were hiking in the Chisos Mountains.

**Black-tailed Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila melanura* — A territorial male came in to some playback when we were at the Rio Grande Village, giving everyone great looks and photo opps.

#### **WRENS: Troglodytidae**

**Rock Wren** *Salpinctes obsoletus* — One was quite cooperative at the Interpretive Center at Davis Mtn. SP. Later we could hear at least two in Santa Elena Canyon and some in the group were also able to see one.

**Canyon Wren** *Catherpes mexicanus* — Their beautiful song of descending notes could be heard echoing though Santa Elena Canyon.

**House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* — Quite surprisingly, the only one for the tour was found on the first day at Rio Bosque Park!

**Bewick's Wren** *Thryomanes bewickii* — We found a few in the Davis Mountains, but once we reached Big Bend they became for more common.

**Cactus Wren** *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* — We woke to their song every morning in Big Bend NP and had many opportunities to watch them flitting in the cacti or singing from the low trees around our lodging.

#### **STARLINGS: Sturnidae**

**European Starling (I)** *Sturnus vulgaris* — Looking at our species list, we reported starlings on the first two days, but I only realized later that I hadn't entered any sightings on eBird...so that pushed our total up! :)

#### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae**

**Curve-billed Thrasher** *Toxostoma curvirostre* — Our first sighting was on the Post Road, but later we had awesome views at Dugout Wells and at the Christmas Mountains Oasis.

**Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos* — Quite common, seen and heard every day.

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae**

**Western Bluebird** *Sialia mexicana* — A nice find at the Lawrence E. Wood picnic area where it perched on low branches giving us time to get it in the scope for everyone to see.

**Townsend's Solitaire** *Myadestes townsendi* — Seen on the Colima Warbler hike in the higher elevations along the Meadows Trail.

**Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus* — Two were seen by some as we were leaving Rio Bosque Park.

### **WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae**

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum* — A nice find, and unexpected, at Christmas Mtns. Oasis.

### **SILKY-FLYCATCHERS: Ptilonotidae**

**Phainopepla** *Phainopepla nitens* — Mike was the first person to notice this somewhat shy male who wanted to come into the feeders at Christmas Mountain. Hopefully everyone was able to get a look at his stunning black plumage, tall crest and bright red eye!

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae**

**House Sparrow (I)** *Passer domesticus* — a.k.a. Black-throated Brown...common in towns.

### **PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae**

**American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens* — Peter found one on the first day at Sandia Wetlands, a somewhat late migrant.

### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae**

**House Finch** *Haemorhous mexicanus* — Seen on most if not every day.

**Cassin's Finch** *Haemorhous cassinii* — Two females and a male were a consolation prize for having dipped on Pinyon Jay at Dell's house in the Davis Mountains.

**Pine Siskin** *Spinus pinus* — Found in multiple locations in the Davis Mountains, these small finches are often easier to find when they give their telltale rising trill.

**Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria* — Seen/heard on four days in both the Davis Mountains and in Big Bend NP.

### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae**

**Cassin's Sparrow** *Peucaea cassinii* — Perched up and singing along the Post Road.

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* — Seen on five days of the tour, readily identified by the bright, rufous crown and black eye-line.

**Clay-colored Sparrow** *Spizella pallida* — A pretty spectacular sight to see dozens all feeding together at The Post!

**Black-throated Sparrow** *Amphispiza bilineata* — Seen well at Davis Mountains SP and then at multiple other locations, usually in pairs with males perching on low shrubs and singing their high-pitched song.

**Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus* — Easily identified by its harlequin-like facial pattern, this large sparrow was found at several locations on six days of the tour.

**Lark Bunting** *Calamospiza melanocorys* — The state bird of Colorado! We found one at Balmorhea Lake on our first day, then didn't see another until we arrived at the Christmas Mountain Oasis on our penultimate day.

**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* — A nice find along the Post Road.

**Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis* — Also seen on the Post Road, and then later at Carolyn's Oasis.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolni* — Coming to the drip feeder at Carolyn's Oasis.

**Canyon Towhee** *Melospiza fusca* — Seen on six days of the tour from multiple locations but seen especially well at the Interpretive Center feeders in the Davis Mountains.

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow** *Aimophila ruficeps* — Seen around the Chisos Lodge and on our hike into the mountains.

**Green-tailed Towhee** *Pipilo chlorurus* — We had quick glimpses at Rio Bosque Park, at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Center and then later at the Rio Grande Village.

**Spotted Towhee** *Pipilo maculatus* — Once we got about 6,000 feet in the Chisos Mountains, they became quite

common.

### **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Icteriidae**

**Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* — One of the highlights for many was watching these bright yellow songsters perch and occasionally give flight at the Sam Nail Ranch.

### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae**

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* — One female/immature male was seen in the scrub around the pond at Christmas Mountain.

**Chihuahuan Meadowlark** *Sturnella liliana* — First found at the Sandia Wetlands, where everyone was able to get a good view and learn how this species was recently elevated, having previously been known as the “Lilian’s” subspecies of Eastern Meadowlark. We also found them at Balmorhea Lake and on the “Golden Eagle” drive.

**Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius* — We had great looks at both males and females at The Post, then a few days later in the Cottonwood Campground.

**Bullock's Oriole** *Icterus bullockii* — Seen well by everyone, we found these at The Post as well, and at two other locations. The bright orange and black males were particularly conspicuous.

**Scott's Oriole** *Icterus parisorum* — The desert singer, this was the first sound many of us heard when we woke at the Chisos Lodge!

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* — Seen only at the Sandia Wetlands.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater* — Quite common and seen/heard nearly every day.

**Brewer's Blackbird** *Euphagus cyanocephalus* — Found on five days of the tour, the first birds were at Sandia Wetlands, but everyone had the chance to study the glossy black and purple males with their yellow eyes at The Post.

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus* — Seen on four days, wherever there was water.

### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae**

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* — A nice find next to the first feeders we visited at Davis Mtns. SP.

**Colima Warbler** *Oreothlypis crissalis* — This was a main goal for many on the trip, but of course it required making a 10-mile hike!

**Lucy's Warbler** *Oreothlypis luciae* — Not great looks, Peter spotted one at Cottonwood Park just as it flitted into the scrub along the fence. Michael and perhaps others were able to chase it down, but difficult to see in the thick cover.

**Nashville Warbler** *Oreothlypis ruficapilla* — Another nice find, one was seen at the Interpretive Center at Davis State Park. A second was found associating with a small group of Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warblers in some trees alongside the marsh at Rio Grande Village.

**MacGillivray's Warbler** *Geothlypis tolmiei* — Only a few were fortunate to see this skulking, first-year male coming to the drip feeder at Carolyn's Oasis.

**Kentucky Warbler** *Geothlypis formosa* — First found by Karl who was able to get Michael and perhaps a few others onto it in the scrub behind the drip feeder at the Christmas Mountains Oasis.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* — Found, not surprisingly, near water at Rio Bosque Park and Rio Grande Village.

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* — Beautiful male seen at The Post and then again at Cottonwood Campground.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata* — Primarily the Audubon's variety, we found these on each day of the tour, though not in large numbers.

**Grace's Warbler** *Setophaga graciae* — What a treat to get such great looks at a singing male in the Davis Mtns.!

**Black-throated Gray Warbler** *Setophaga nigrescens* — A really nice find while we were watching the Grace's, was it Karen who first noticed it?

**Townsend's Warbler** *Setophaga townsendi* — We found our first just outside of El Paso at the Rio Bosque Park, then several more in Big Bend. One was seen at nearly point-blank range along the bank of Terlingua Creek as we were leaving Santa Elena Canyon.

**Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla* — Seen on six days, usually in mixed flocks with Yellow-rumps.

## **CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae**

**Hepatic Tanager** *Piranga flava* — We tried hard at the Lawrence E. Wood picnic area to get one in the scopes, but it remained rather elusive. The next time we were at higher elevation was in the Chisos Mountains, where a male was a bit more cooperative.

**Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* — We had many opportunities to observe males and female, even one or two yellow (first year) males throughout the week.

**Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana* — Like Hepatic, Western Tanagers prefer the higher elevations. Kate found the first when we were searching for the Hepatic at the Lawrence E. Wood picnic area.

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis* — The desert race has a notably taller crest, and we saw several, often in close proximity to Pyrrhuloxia.

**Pyrrhuloxia** *Cardinalis sinuatus* — A signature species of the dry, desert scrub, we enjoyed comparing these with Northern Cardinals and learning to recognize the differences in bill structure.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* — How Karen managed to spot this bird at the Cottonwood Campground I'll never know, but it was a gorgeous male, perched deep in the tangle of branches along the fence. Thankfully it stayed long enough for us to get it in the scope!

**Black-headed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus melanocephalus* — Seen on three days of the tour, first in the Davis Mountains when one came to the feeders at the Interpretive Center.

**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea* — More than I've ever seen in one place in my life – we counted at least 40 males in a migrating group, feeding on the ground at The Post, but there were many more around as we passed a dozen or more on the drive out.

**Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena* — We may have missed the Pinyon Jays at Dell's house in the Davis Mountains, but we were quite fortunate to see two gorgeous male Lazuli Buntings and an Indigo Bunting all at the same feeder.

**Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea* — Per above, I'd seen an Indigo Bunting at Dell's the week before ( a different bird based on plumage) and he mentioned that it was just the second he had ever had come to his yard. So this was the third!

**Varied Bunting** *Passerina versicolor* — For a few minutes we were treated to what must be an unusual experience, with both Painted and Varied Buntings singing across from one another at Rio Grande Village! We had the chance to see another at Carolyn's Oasis as well.

**Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris* — This was high on most people's lists of birds they really wanted to see, and we were fortunate to see one or more on six of the seven days!

## **MAMMALS**

**Desert Cottontail** *Sylvilagus auduboni* — Several were seen along the roads and in dry, scrubby desert habitats.

**Black-tailed Jackrabbit** *Lepus californicus* — One or possibly two were seen along Post Road, their long ears and huge feet give them a slightly goofy look :)

**Mexican Ground Squirrel** *Spermophilus mexicanus* — One seen on day one, I believe at Rio Bosque Park, and another was seen on the last day.

**Rock Squirrel** *Spermophilus variegatus* — A few seen in the Davis Mountains.

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus* — This was the desert subspecies known as Coue's Deer, the only smaller white-tailed deer are found in the Florida Keys.

**Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus* — Seen often on the sides of roads and in the Chisos Mountain Lodge area.

**Pronghorn** *Antilocarpa americana* — Yes! And the route we took to see these guys is what took us to the Golden Eagle!

**Gray Fox** *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* — Some saw one in the parking lot at the Chisos Mountain Lodge in the evenings.

**Coyote** *Canis latrans* — Two were found, one on the first day, and a second as we were leaving the Davis Mtns.

## **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**

**Greater Earless Lizard** *Cophosaurus texanus* — ( )



**Chihuahuan Spotted Whiptail** *Aspidoscelus exsanguis* — ()  
**Coachwhip Snake** *Masticophis flagellum* — ()  
**Big Bend Slider** *Trachemys gaigeae* — ()  
**Spiny Soft-shelled Turtle** *Apolone spinifera* — ()  
**Rio Grande Leopard Frog** *Lithobates berlandieri* — ()  
**Black-tailed Rattlesnake**  
**Arizona Blond Tarantula**  
**Gecko**  
**Desert Whiptail**  
**SW Fence Lizard**  
**Rust-rumped Whiptail**